Volume 6, Special Issue Xmas
SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER

Xmas Special, January 2001

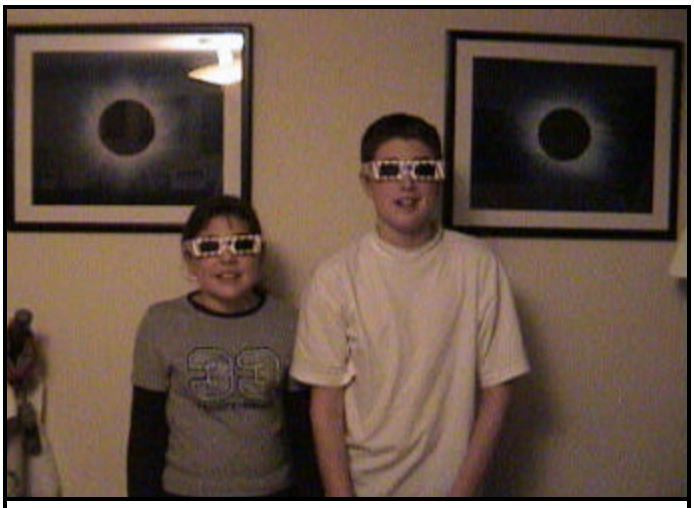
SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER SPECIAL

Inside this issue:

Dear Eclipse-Chasers,

I hope that you all enjoy this special edition of the Solar Eclipse Newsletter, starring the Partial Eclipse of 25th December, that extra special present that was well worth waiting for, and for us well worth the extra travelling.

We would like to thank Fred and Pat for putting up with us over the festive period. We all had a wonderful time. The eclipse was fantastic, and gave us all a taster for Africa. We were not deterred by the cold weather and were only thankful for clear skies, our hearts goes out to all you guys who were less fortunate. But I also have to thank all the contributors without which this special edition would not be possible. The files were very large therefore we have needed to split the files into three parts. This was also necessary to maintain the quality of the pictures. Hopefully this doesn't cause too much trouble when downloading. I am now working on the February issue, hopefully this won't be too far behind. Please remember all the pictures are copyrighted and shown by the kind permission of the owners.
Regards and best wishes,
Joanne



Michael & Laura Appleton with Christmas solar eclipse glasses.

The Solar Eclipse Mailing List

The Solar Eclipse Mailing List (SEML) is an electronic newsgroup dedicated to Solar Eclipses. Published by eclipse chaser Patrick Poitevin (patrick_poitevin@hotmail.com), it is a forum for discussing anything and everything about eclipses.

Thanks to the voluntary efforts of Jan Van Gestel of Geel, Belgium, the Solar Eclipse Mailing List (listserver) has been in operation since 10 December 1997. This is the first mailing list devoted solely to topic of solar eclipses on the internet.

You can send an e-mail message to the list server solareclipses@Aula.com, which will then forward your e-mail to all the subscribers on the list. Likewise, you'll receive e-mail messages that other subscribers send to the listserver. Only subscribers can send messages.

SUBSCRIBING TO THE SOLAR ECLIPSE MAILING LIST

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE MAILING LIST IS MAINTAINED BY THE LIST OWNER PATRICK POITEVIN AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF JAN VAN GESTEL

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE:

IN THE BODY OF THE MESSAGE TO listserv@Aula.com SUBSCRIBE SOLARECLIPSES name, country.

PRE-PARTIAL ECLIPSE FEVER!!!!!!

From: Bob Morris <morris@sce.carleton.ca> To: SE from LRM <solareclipses@Aula.com> Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2000 11:20 PM Subject: [SE] **Article in the National Post 12/22/00**

If all goes according to schedule, my article about the upcoming eclipse is in Canada's National Post tomorrow, under Discovery.

It is very briefly about the Dec. 25 eclipse actually, but more about the 1868 eclipse I researched earlier this year, when King Mongkut -- of "The King and I" fame -- lost his life eclipse chasing.

I made an attempt to see if Mongkut's eclipse calculations are still extant: I suspect they are. But there was absolutely no co-operation forthcoming from some people in Thailand who I contacted via an intermediary.

Through some digging I was able to uncover some journals of an Anerican missionary who was at the eclipse sight. I have excerpts from his journal in my article.

Perhaps the most amusing quote was from the Siamese prime minister, who was also on site for the eclipse. Until shortly before the eclipse the sky was cloudy and the PM suggested playfully to the ladies in waiting that if the eclipse was clouded out, one could blame the clouds of smoke they had been creating all morning to produce smoked glass!

I suspect that Mongkut is the most famous person in history whose death is *directly* attributable to eclipse chasing.

Any other candidates? In fact, if not for the eclipse he would not have been famous ... Bob Morris

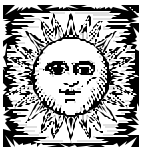
From: Bob Morris <morris@sce.carleton.ca>

From: Jean Meeus <JMeeus@compuserve.com> To: Patrick Poitevin <patrick_poitevin@hotmail.com> Sent: Monday, March 13, 2000 8:28 AM Subject: Fw: [SE] December 25 eclipse

Solar eclipse of 2000 December 25

The least distance of the axis of the Moon's shadow to the center of the Earth the famous quantity "Gamma") will be +1.13652, in units of the Earth's equatorial radius. In the fundamental plane, the radius of the umbra will be 0.02683, in the same units. In fact, that will not be the umbra itself, but rather its extention, where the eclipse is annular, not total. Notice that the Moon will be in its *apogee* on December 28. The least approach to the Earth's surface will be at latitude 66° North. At that point, the distance of the Earth's surface to the center of the Earth is 0.99720 (a little smaller than 1, by reason of the flattening of the Earth). Consequently, the least distance from the edge of the *extention* of the umbra to the Earth's surface will be

1.13652 - 0.02683 - 0.99720 = 0.11249 equatorial radius, that is 717 kilometers.



Jean Meeus

From: <Jay.M.Pasachoff@williams.edu> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Friday, December 22, 2000 11:51 PM Subject: [SE] **Partial eclipse**

See the **MSNBC** article that quotes me about the Christmas eclipse at http://www.msnbc.com/news/503439.asp

See our links from the International Astronomical Union Working Group on Eclipses at http://www.totalsolareclipse.net Jay Pasachoff

From: <KCStarguy@aol.com> To: <eclipse@hydra.carleton.ca> Sent: Friday, December 22, 2000 6:34 PM Subject: [eclipse] **dec25 eclipse and january**

I have posted **sites and links** for this eclipse with cams also and also starting to post cams and links for the lunar january eclipse.
It can be found at directly at http://members.aol.com/kcstarguy/blacksun/nexteclipses.htm or with a link from my homepage http://members.aol.com/kcstarguy/blacksun/eclipse.htm
If anyone has more links or cams send me a message directly and I will add them ASAP. Please pass my sites on to others or other listserves.

It looks like it will be cloudy here in Kansas . Hope I can see something or I will live throuhg some cams. Dr. Eric Flescher

PRE-PARTIAL ECLIPSE FEVER!!!!!!

Christmas eclipses

From: <Dorjenyma@aol.com> Cc: <solareclipses@Aula.com> Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2000 10:35 PM Subject: [SE] **Christmas eclipses**

The next partial solar eclipse will happen on Christmas day. who knows the dates of total solar eclipses which happened on Chrismas day for the last 2000 years ? Same question for total lunar eclipses. Thanks to you Dorje

From: Jean Meeus <JMeeus@compuserve.com>

During the 20th century there are (or were) three solar eclipses on Christmas Day, but they were not total :

1935 Dec 25	annular
1954 Dec 25	annular
2000 Dec 25	partial

Total solar eclipses on December 25 are much rarer. Including annular-total eclipses, there are only three in the period from 0 to A.D. 3000 :

56 Dec 25	total
1666 Dec 25	annular-total
2755 Dec 25	total

However, there is a complication. All these dates refer to eclipses whose mid-time occurs between 0 and 24 hours Universal Time (or, more precisely, Dynamical Time) of December 25. When other time zones are used, the results are different. On 2038 December 26 and on 2057 December 26 there will be a total solar eclipse, with mid-time at about 1h UT. So, when an American time zone is used, it is found that both eclipses will take place on December 25, not 26 !

Concerning total LUNAR eclipses, again whose mid-time occurs on December 25 Universal Time, I found the Christmas Days of the following years between 0 and A.D. 3000 :

223 288 307 809 828 2531 2550 2596 2922

Notice the large gap between the years 828 and 2531, followed by three events during the same century ! Jean Meeus

From: FRED ESPENAK <u32fe@lepvax.gsfc.nasa.gov>

The NASA web site for the December 25 solar eclipse is: http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/extra/PSE2000Dec25.html You can find eclipse times for many cities posted on this web site.

The last solar eclipse on December 25th was in 1954. It was an annular eclipse seen in the southern hemisphere over Africa.

The next solar eclipse on December 25th is a partial eclipse and it's not till 2307 off the western coast of Africa. - Fred Espenak

Total solar eclipses on December 25 are much rarer. Including annular-total eclipses, there are only three in the period from 0 to A.D. 3000

From: Bob Morris <morris@sce.carleton.ca> To: SE from LRM <solareclipses@Aula.com> Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2000 1:13 PM Subject: [SE] **Radical weather thinking**

Those in the northeastern US who are thinking of driving to seek clear skies for Monday's eclipse should think Canada rather than driving west.

For example, the weather in Ottawa, one hour's drive from northern New York, is radically different most of the time from weather in northern New York.

That's because the prevailing winds are often from the northwest and northern New York gets all sorts of "lake effect" precipitation.

For example, Watertown is not called Watertown for nothing.

Our cable versions of CBS, NBC, and ABC are from Rochester and they're often drowned in "lake effect" rain or snow when we are clear.

Etc. etc. etc.

At this moment we have cloudless skies (8 am Saturday).

Also, for this eclipse, the farther north you go the greater the magnitude of the eclipse. As long as you remain south of Baffin Island, that is. I will post our weather on Monday morning.

The Monday predictions are partly cloudy at the moment but in the past couple of weeks the weather has been bettering the predictions. The USA Today predictions for Ottawa are pretty poor. Our weather channel, which gives 5 day predctions every 10 minutes, is very accurate.

(Continued on page 4)

PRE-PARTIAL ECLIPSE FEVER!!!!!!

Highway 416, which runs north from highway 401 to Ottawa, is now 4 lane divided -- as highway 401 has been for decades.

Ottawa and Montreal both have about 61% eclipse. Bob Morris

From: Madden <iluvelx@netacc.net>

This is not radical weather thinking for Northeasterners, it's good sense.

I am in Rochester and lake effect snow has been the dominate feature of our weather since mid-November.

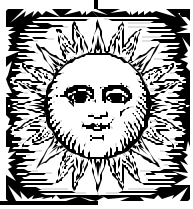
So going north is a good idea *if* there are no storm systems on the map. Good luck everyone. madden/ rochester

From: Vic & Jen Winter, ICSTARS Inc.

George, Just saw your posting on the [SE] newsgroup and was overcome with a strange sense of jealosy over those in the northeast at this time of year. Hope your weather is permitting or that you can get to a better place to view. Let us know if you get any pictures! Looks like we're scheduled to be socked in for several states down here. You never know, though. All the best! Merry Christmas and Happy New-Millenium to you and yours! Vic and Jen Winter

From: Bob Morris <morris@sce.carleton.ca>
At the moment Ottawa has clouds with light snow. But the predictions, confirmed by The Weather Channel, are that both Ottawa and Toronto will be clear tomorrow. I'll post tomorrow am. Bob Morris

From: Pierre Arpin
But the predictions, confirmed by The Weather Channel, are that both Ottawa and Toronto will be clear tomorrow. Don't forget Montreal too where our local planetarium will host a gathering for public.



From: <Skywayinc@aol.com> To: <undisclosed-recipients:;> Sent: Sunday, December 24, 2000 7:44 PM Subject: [eclipse] **CHRISTMAS DAY SOLAR ECLIPSE WEATHER OUTLOOK**

Here is our nationwide weather outlook for viewing the Christmas Day partial eclipse of the Sun that will be occurring across much of North America. The eclipse will be reaching its peak at roughly 16:20 UTC along the west coast of the US; 16:30 UTC for the west coast of Canada; 17:10 UTC for central sections of North America; 17:45 UTC for the east coast of the US; and 18:00 to 18:15 for Canadian Maritimes. Greatest coverage (a magnitude of 72.3%) will occur from Baffin Island in far-northern Canada, with coverage decreasing as one heads to the south. Most of North America will witness this event with the exception of northwestern Canada and Alaska.

BEST VIEWING WEATHER:

Virginia and the Carolinas in the eastern US; southern and central California and southwestern Arizona in the western US. In these areas, 0 to 2/10ths cloud coverage is expected, making for excellent visibility of the eclipse.

GOOD VIEWING WEATHER:

Most of the eastern US, to the east of the Mississippi River should get good views. Exceptions will be near and around the Great Lakes where localized heavy snow showers and flurries may occur thanks to very cold air flowing across the Lakes. Another exception would be the Adirondacks of northern New York and much of central and northern New England, where clouds and scattered flurries will also be possible.

In the western US, northern California, southern Oregon, southwest Idaho, western Nevada and much of Arizona (except the northeast part) should also have good views.

In localities deemed "good", cloud cover will range from 3/10 to 6/10th coverage, meaning that while clouds will occasionally block the Sun, more often than not, the Sun will be clearly visible and allow for good viewing.

FAIR TO POOR WEATHER

All those regions not mentioned above are likely to fall into this category, with widespread unsettled weather expected. This includes much of the northern and central Great Plains, Texas-Oklahoma, the Rocky Mountains and the desert southwest. Cloud coverage will range from 7/10th to 10/10th coverage, meaning that while in some areas fortuitous holes and breaks in the cloud cover might afford some views of the partially eclipsed Sun, more often than not the view is likely to be obscured.

Regardless of the weather in your area, we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season! Joe & Renate Rao Skyway, Inc.

PRE-PARTIAL ECLIPSE FEVER!!!!!!

From: Eric Pauer <pauer@bit-net.com> To: Solar Eclipse Mailing List <solareclipses@aula.com> Sent: Monday, December 18, 2000 7:40 PM Subject: [SE] **Christmas Eclipse Webcast - NH (USA)**

For interested folks, I will be doing a live webcast of the Christmas eclipse from my home in southern New Hampshire (USA). Locally the eclipse will be a 58.1% partial event, starting at 11:14 a.m. EST (16:14 UT) and ending at 2:23 pm EST (19:23 UT), with maximum eclipse at 12:51 pm EST (17:51 UT). I plan on using my Sony camcorder (25x optical zoom) and 1.6X teleconverter for an effective focal length of 1920 mm. You may find the webcast at

http://www.bit-net.com/~pauer

Please feel free to pass along or post this info to others. A special thanks to Olivier Staiger (Klipsi) for help in getting me going. Regards, Eric Pauer

From: Olivier Staiger <olivier.staiger@span.ch>

one more remark: since you put the animation on the explanation page I would suggest to remove it from the live webcast page. Keep the webcast page as simple as possible, with no other graphics, they would only slow down the refresh . If the only image is the live.jpg image and the rest is simple html text then the refresh works best, especially when thousands of people are connected simultaneously. Olivier "Klipsi" Staiger

From: Dale Ireland <direland@drdale.com>

This is true Olivier, however, the savvy viewer can do this himself by just picking out the live image from the page by just typing that specific address into the browser then refreshing/reloading as needed. For example, the live image on my page is http://www.drdale.com/cam/live.jpg if you just type in the address of the image like that you miss all the html and the rest of the stuff on the main page containing the image, it makes reloading ten times faster. All you have to do is go to the person's main page and right-click on the live image, the exact address of the image will appear, then you type it in and hit the reload button as you desire. Dale

From: FRED ESPENAK <u32fe@lepvax.gsfc.nasa.gov> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2000 9:07 PM Subject: Re: [SE] Christmas Eclipse Webcast - NH (USA)

I'm updating my NASA Christmas Eclipse web page at: http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse/extra/PSE2000Dec25.html

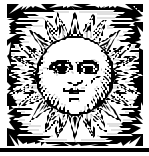
I'm especially interested in hearing from anyone planning to do a live webcast of the eclipse.

I already have Eric Pauer and Olivier Staiger on my list. Anyone else out there planning a webcast? Please let me know!

Thanks! - Fred Espenak

From: <JohnLX200@aol.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@aula.com> Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2000 2:35 AM Subject: Re: [SE] Christmas Eclipse Webcast - NH (USA)

I'll pass along a post from a well-respected member of the MAPUG mailing list (which I run.) He's planning a live webcast of the December 25 partial eclipse from Michigan. John Hopper



From: Bryan Brewer <bryanb@earthview.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM>; <eclipse@hydra.carleton.ca> Sent: Friday, December 22, 2000 12:45 AM Subject: [SE] special **"Santa's Eclipse" Web site**

My son Devin and I put together a special Web site -- http://www.santaseclipse.com -- for the Dec. 25, 2000 partial solar eclipse over North America.

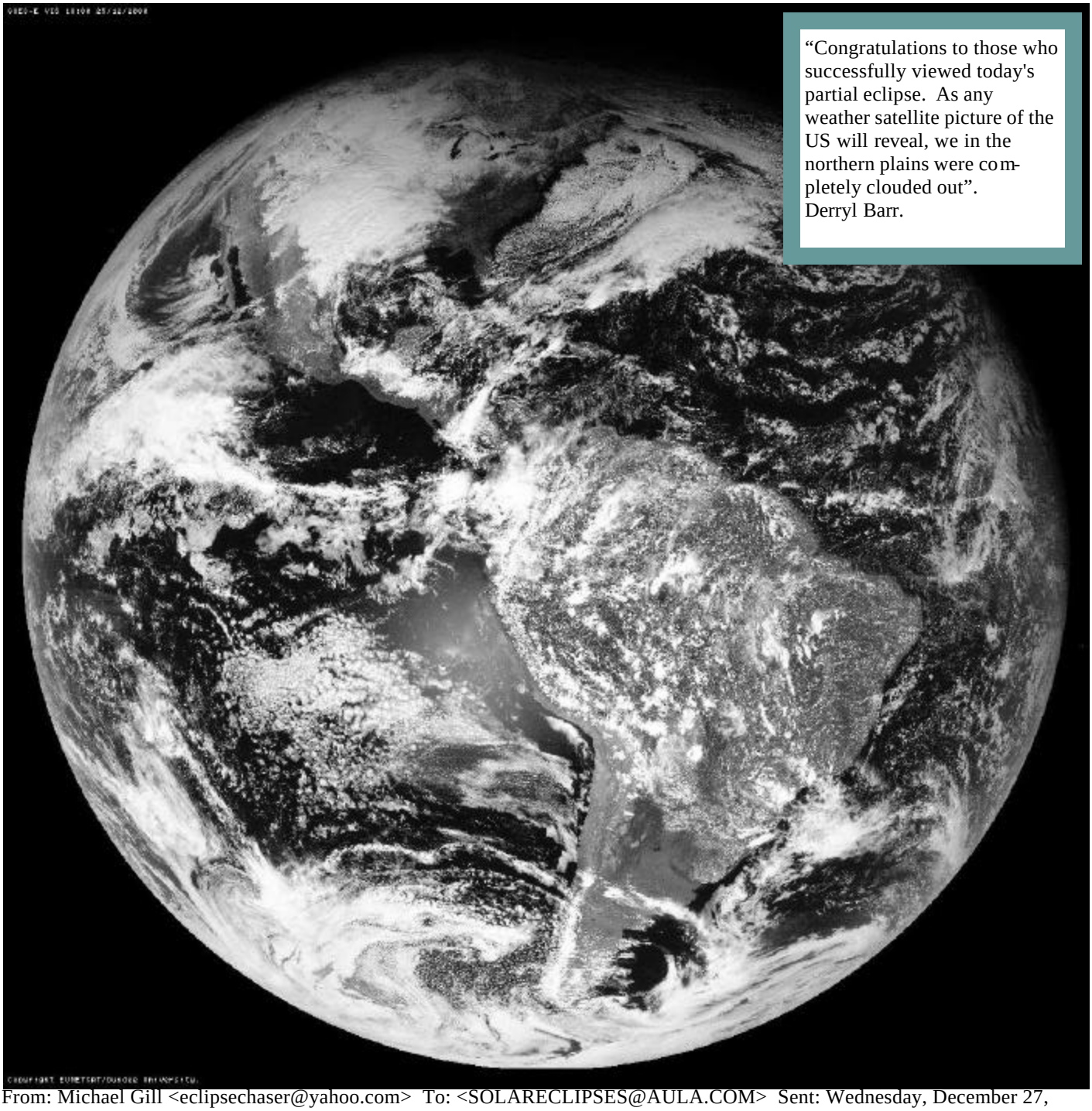
Please notify me if you know of any additional Web cam sites broadcasting the event on Monday. Thanks. -- Bryan Brewer

From: Johanna Kovitz <joko@pangolyn.com>

Dear Bryan and Devin,

Thank you for your excellent website. I've sent it to my non-fanatic friends. It gives them the essential information, clearly and aesthetically presented, with out a lot of technical details that might scare them off.
Best wishes and happy viewing, Johanna

PARTIAL ECLIPSE SPACE IMAGE



"Congratulations to those who successfully viewed today's partial eclipse. As any weather satellite picture of the US will reveal, we in the northern plains were completely clouded out". Derryl Barr.

From: Michael Gill <eclipsechaser@yahoo.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 12:59 PM Subject: [SE] **Space Image of the Penumbra - Dec 25th 2000**

Dundee University's website has a nice image taken by the GOES -East geostationary platform at 18:00UT on December 25th. It clearly shows the darkening caused by the lunar penumbra (look towards the top of the picture, above the Great Lakes region)...
http://www.sat.dundee.ac.uk/pdus/EV/200012251800EV1_n.jpg
If this link doesn't work for you, you may have to register (free) at the following webpage...
http://www.sat.dundee.ac.uk/registerql.html
The image should be accessible via the above link for approximately three weeks. Michael Gill.

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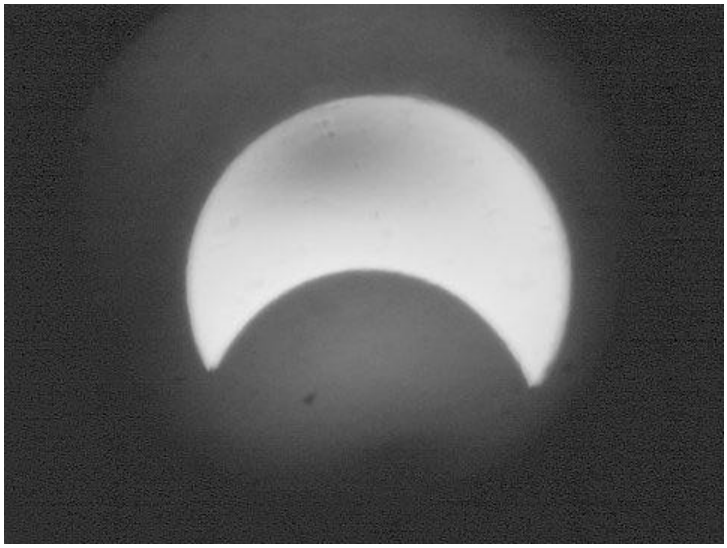


From: Gerard M Foley <gfoley@columbus.rr.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 9:56 PM Subject: [SE] **Out-of-focus Eclipse Image**

Is attached. I underestimated the difficulties of focusing a digital camera on a telescope in bright sunlight. Sorry about the fuzz. When I find the correct time for the exposure I will probably post again. 25 December 2000 Columbus, OH, 3.5 Questar, Olympus C2020Z. Gerry K8EF

ITS ALL OVER NOW…….

From: Dribalz@aol.com To: SOLARECLIPSES@aula.com Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 6:19 AM Subject: [SE] Partial Solar Eclipse 12/25/00

Well, it is over now--a memory only, as well as some photos, and video.

I was visiting my in laws in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The kids rousted us all out of bed at 830am. Presents were opened, and then it was time to prepare for the eclipse. I couldn't convince half of the folks in that house to freeze along with me, so I settled for giving them a few solar filters and let them have fun. As for conditions, the sky was clear and the temperature a frosty 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

The equipment was relatively simple--a 35 mm camera (Minolta Maxxum 7000), and a Sigma 600 mm telephoto--a mirror lens combination. Later on, after that beautiful naked eye set of sunspots was covewred, my brother in law brought out his digital Canon XL-1 video camcorder. I spent a few minutes recording with that.

After maximum eclipse, I came inside, did a web-search for Eric Pauer's page, and successfully watched a few minutes more of the eclipse before being called in for Christmas Day lunch. Wish I was going to Africa in 2001... :(Andrew Hans

ECLIPSE FROM CALIFORNIA

From: <Jay.M.Pasachoff@williams.edu> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 5:47 PM Subject: [SE] eclipse from California

I viewed my 31st solar eclipse very nicely yesterday from an airplane on the ground at Los Angeles airport. I had planned to be aloft to get over any clouds, but fog prevented our taking off for a long time. But the fog lifted at the beginning of the runway (though not at the end), and we got a good view.

It is always good to check that the clockwork of the Universe is working properly, and seeing the Moon go in front of the Sun on schedule takes care of that task. I also verified that a 15% eclipse is just as good as a 50% eclipse to see, since in neither case does it get dark. It is only beyond the last 99.9% that solar eclipses are really dramatic. I can't wait for June in Africa. Jay Pasachoff

PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

From: Bill Kramer <bill@autocode.com> To: Solar Eclipse Group <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 4:08 PM Subject: [SE] **Partial Eclipse Images from Ohio**

Yet another page of partial eclipse images - taken fromOhio where we enjoyed crystal clear sky conditions for the duration of the eclipse. It was cold though, so we cheated....

http://www.eclipse-chasers.com/dec2000.htm

Now I'm really ready for June 2001 and Zambia! Best wishes to all for the New Year. -Bill Kramer

Here is an image of myself watching the Dec 25 00 partial from Dublin OH where we enjoyed crystal clear sky conditions - a rare event that time of year! It was a great Christmas present.
We watched the eclipse indoors due to the biting cold outside. This image shows the eclipse as projected through a Questar with a makeshift projection screen. Note, I have my safari gear on and am ready for Zambia! There are more images at http://www.eclipse-chasers.com/dec2000.htm
-Bill Kramer
http://www.autocode.com -- AutoCAD CAM and utilities
http://www.cadcruise.com -- AutoCAD Education at Sea
http://www.eclipse-chasers.com -- Eclipses of the Sun and Moon

PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

SANTA'S GIFT

From: Chris Malicki To: SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 4:09 PM Subject: [SE] CLEAR WEATHER! Santa's gift

It's 8a.m. EST in Mississauga, Ont. (just west of Toronto). It's a PERFECT clear cold day - beautiful. A great Christmas present. Partial eclipse starts at 10:58 (thanks Fred for your predictions). Will post after the eclipse. Good luck everyone. Chris Malicki

From: Gerard M Foley

Looks great in Columbus, OH, where it will start a few minutes earlier - 10:52 according to Fred. Happy Holidays Gerry K8EF

From: Olivier Staiger

Dear Chris, do you know of any live webcasts from Canada ? so far I have found 6 webcasts from USA, (see the links at http://eclipse.span.ch/251200.htm) but none from Canada. Does anybody know of other live webcasts, such as from Mexico or the Caribbean (Cuba, anyone ???)

From: Chris Malicki

Sorry, I don't know of any. Also, I didn't receive your message until 1:45 EST, 25 min before the eclipse is about to end. The weather here in southern Ontario, Canada, is perfect. In the morning, I gave a solar filter each to the two priests at the Christmas day mass as presents and then set up. The eclipse was a beautiful Christmas present form nature. I was outdoors in the cold almost all the time with 2 telescopes - one a 2.4 inch refractor projecting the image; another C8 with eyepiece alt. with camera. The irregularity of the moon's limb was very obvious and sunspots were great. Have to run now to see and time last contact. Have to see if Fred was correct. (He was right on for 1st contact). Chris Malicki

From: Joel M. Moskowitz, M.D. <moskowi@attglobal.net>

Hi Chris, Even though the weather forecast for NY wasn't so great, the day was absolutely clear. I just set up my video camera and 500mm lens for photos. I invited my daughter's best friend and family over and some neighbors stopped by to look. Temperature was 20 (F) with a wind chill down to -30 (F). They said it was the coldest Christmas in NY in 25 years. Eclipse was nice. Sunspot groups were nice, I was able to see one group (the central one) naked eye.

From: barr derryl

Congratulations to those who successfully viewed today's partial eclipse. As any weather satellite picture of the US will reveal, we in the northern plains were completely clouded out. Hopefully, things will go better next June in Zambia. Thanks to the many for their reports, and best wishes for a great new year. Derryl Barr

Eclipse was nice. Sunspot groups were nice, I was able to see one group (the central one) naked eye.

From: Chris Malicki To: SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2001 5:58 AM Subject: [SE]

C8 photos of Christmas eclipse

Dear SE group, I've posted three of my images of the Christmas eclipse taken with a C8 on my website. Please visit my website (address below) and follow the link to :"Christnas eclipse 2000", or go directly to:
http://webhome.idirect.com/~kmalicki/Christmas2000.htm
Chris Malicki

From: Olivier Staiger <olivier.staiger@span.ch> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 5:28 PM Subject: [SE]

cnn live

www.cnn.com now also has streaming video live from Washington D.C. of the eclipse, in Real Player and Windows Media.

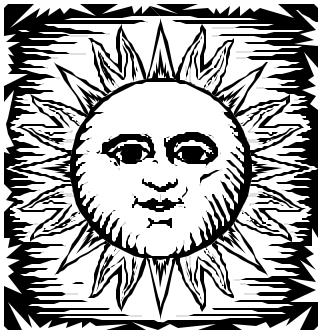
PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

1. 2. 3. 4.....COUNTING DOWN

From: Glenn Schneider <gschneider@mac.com> To: <solareclipses@aula.com> Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 3:19 PM Subject: [SE] Counting down to partiality

... and at 8:10 MST its ites "severe clear" skies over Tucson. Brrr... its only 48F in the shade! Hope it warms up before the eclipse starts. Not much of an event form the desert S/W for a die-hard umbraphile. But my 6-year old daughter just having opened up one of her presents this morning, a new kid-friendly 400mm f/5.6 spotting scope I built for her (with a chromium solar filter, of course, its counting down the minutes. Good luck to all, and happy holidays. Clear skies and good seeing,

Glenn Schneider



ECLIPSE CHASING!

From: Vic & Jen Winter, ICSTARS Inc. To: SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 4:11 AM Subject: [SE] Eclipse Chasing !

I'm sure not many people consider chasing a partial eclipse, but that's what we ended up doing. As most in the mid-west were socked-in for days, we didn't have big expectations. We saw the sun only briefly at sunrise and then it was gone. That didn't keep us from poking a wanton eye out the window to peek for a glimpse every few minutes. By 10:00 CST, the family was finished with Christmas cheer and we began to see thin patches in our wall of clouds. By 10:30, we were outside with eclipse shades for a few brief moments of excitement before it was gone. The patchy holes were replaced by thick overcast. But then we noticed on the southern horizon, a band of blue perhaps 10 degrees high. We bumbled around and grabbed equipment in a mad dash. By the point of maximum eclipse around 11:10 cst, we were tossing all our equipment into the van for a mad dash south. We were fortunate to have clear roads and a semi-stable clearing line due to cross our path on the highway. I peeked through eclipse shades at the patchy sky while Vic drove. Approximately 40 miles later, we pulled to an exit and jumped from the car under excruciatingly poor seeing, but a clear sky nonetheless. The temp was around 10 deg C. and the wind blew at nearly 20mph, shaking the van, the roadsigns and blowing snow. Vic burned about 30 exposures with the Moxzutov 500, a thousand oaks and a tripod before the sucker-hole slowly closed up around us. We only caught it at about 20% obscuration, but we CAUGHT IT! Cool! Vic & Jen - Kansas

From: Olivier Staiger <olivier.staiger@span.ch> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 10:00 PM Subject: [SE] **more eclipse images**

http://www.spaceweather.com/eclipses/gallery_25dec00.html has a nice selection of the eclipse from various locations.

By the way I have a friend in Iqaluit, southern Baffin Island, northern Canada, who was ready with his camera to shoot the deep partial eclipse he got there, but he was clouded out :-(

From: Eric Pauer <pauer@bit-net.com>
There are now two pages of interesting images from the recent Christmas Eclipse at:

http://www.spaceweather.com/eclipses/gallery_25dec00.html
http://www.spaceweather.com/eclipses/gallery2_25dec00.html

Enjoy! Eric

PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

LIVE WEBCASTS—IMAGES

From: Olivier Staiger <olivier.staiger@span.ch> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 4:30 PM Subject: [SE] live images

news from the live webcasts:

Dale in WA is clouded out...

http://sunmil1.uml.edu/eyes/tv.html has pretty good view from California. THanks, Mike.

Paul Goelz from Detroit Michigan has EXCELLENT images, with sunspots, at http://www.eaglequest.com/~pgoelz/live1.html (and with a link in text if your browser does not support JAVA.) Currently I think this is the best image.

Chuck in Florida has occasionnal images (looks like occasionnal clouds...) http://www.se.mediaone.net/~chuckfa/astrocam.html (also with link for non-java)

Eric in NH: his counter goes up and up but I don't get new image. Is it a problem with my browser ? does anybody get live images from Eric ?

Phil in NC seems to be online but I get no image, http://edgeofnowhere.camarades.com . Does anybody get an image on this page ?

From: Olivier Staiger <olivier.staiger@span.ch>

allright, I can see Eric's live images now. Good job, Eric. Must be freezing cold outdoors in NH now.... see http://www.bit-net.com/~pauer/eclipse00/live/live.html

From: Jörg Schoppmeyer <schoppy@kwsoft.de>

I got some half an hour ago... CU Joerg

From: Sylvain Rivaud <pithecland@chez.com>

CENTRAL PARK—NYC

From: <Kidinvs@aol.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@aula.com> Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 5:46 PM Subject: Re: [SE] **Partial Christmas Present**

....Yes... it was a wonderful xmas present.... One thing that I did learn.... In NYC, the eclipse was about 56% total. I have seen 6 total eclipses, but never paid attention to the exact timing of some of the subtle changes. It was a few moments before maximum eclipse and I was carefully looking for changes in ambient light, and looking for animal behavioral changes. I was in Central Park, NYC. About 15 minutes before maximum, the streetlights in Central Park turned on. I was quite surprised to see this, as I noticed no change in the ambient light. At about 8 minutes before max. I did start to notice the lighting change. The birds began to fly back into the trees about 5 min before max. eclipse, but the dogs seem to notice nothing. So... I suppose that for the future total eclipses, I can tell all the novices with me that they can expect to see events start to occur at about 50%.

Eric Brown

ECLIPSE CHASING!!!!!

From: barr derryl To: SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 8:04 PM Subject: Re: [SE]

Eclipse Chasing !

Vic & Jen: What a great adventure and what a super story! Fortunately, you were far enough south to have a little blue left in the sky. Fate did not smile so kindly on those of us further north; we came up on the cloudy side. Like you, I searched the skies for openings, but there were none to be had. Yesterday was the only day in the last week, or in the projected week to come (we have sunny skies today) when the eclipse could not have been successfully viewed. Wrong time. But also wrong place. My daughter had wanted to spend Christmas with relatives in Des Moines, Iowa, but I talked her out of that primarily because I desired to be home for the eclipse. Shortly after 9:40 AM the Des Moines relatives called to thank us for the eclipse shades that we had enclosed with their Christmas card, and tell us about the fantastic view of first contact that they had just witnessed. AHHHHH!!!!!!

PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

SUCCESS & SNOW

From: Eli Maor <emaor@suba.com> To: <eclipse@hydra.carleton.ca Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 5:12 PM Subject: [eclipse] **Success!**

Hello all eclipsees' Well, FOR ONCE, I beat the poor weather predictions! Here in Chicago we had a splendid day, perfectly clear skies, and no wind. I had my telescope out in our driveway, and in no time some 13 people - neighbors, friends, and even a policeman who had just issued a ticket to an illegally parked car - stopped by to have a peek. The temp. was 20 F, not bad considering that just a day earlier we had minus 8 F. The only hindrance was my neighbor's big tree, whose bare branches every so often blocked parts of the eclipsed sun, so I just moved my scope a few feet away and realigned it. The sunspots were really impressive!

No sooner was the eclipse over, and clouds slowly settled in! Today it is snowing again.

It was a great day, and some consolation for my rained-out European eclipse and the clouded-out Mercury transit.

Wishing all of you a great new year and new millennium (this time, the real one!) - Eli

From: Eric Pauer To: Solar Eclipse Mailing List Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2000 3:29 PM Subject: [SE]

Christmas Eclipse - New Hampshire (USA)

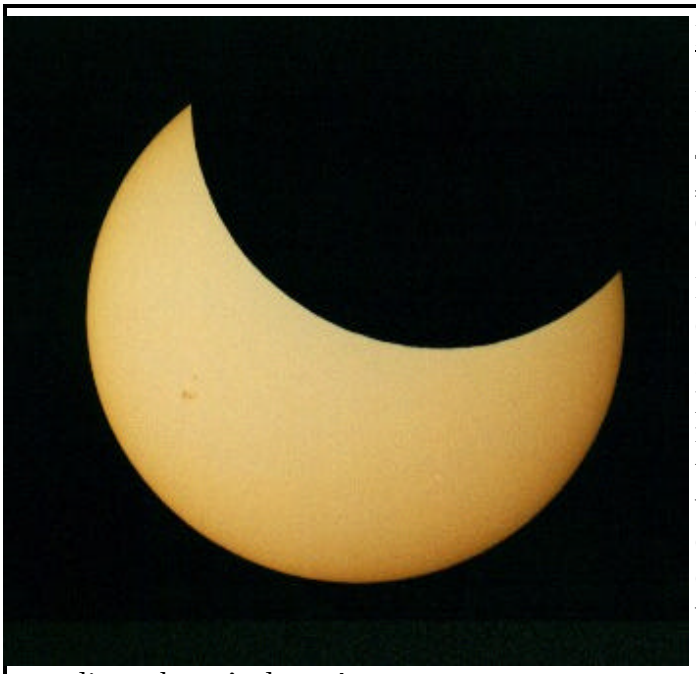
Christmas Eclipse 2000 was a great success from here in Brookline, New Hampshire (USA). We had 95%+ clear skies during the eclipse, but the 11 F (-12 C) temperatures and gusty winds created wind chills way below zero! While the temperature was typical for a December day in NH, the clear weather was not. I'm truly thankful for the clear skies. The cold temperature created some problems with batteries, cameras, and laptop PCs (no surprise here--for detail see my eclipse report). I also did a successful webcast of the solar eclipse. My ISP's server handled the 40,000 combined hits over the three hour eclipse very well. I have also received hundreds of emails of thanks from folks from all types of backgrounds coming in from all over the nation and the world for my webcast. I was overwhelmed by the interest. After all, I only decided to put the webcast togther just a week before the eclipse. Perhaps the fact it was Christmas (few people working) helped? I was glad to bring a view of the eclipse to those could not otherwise "see" it, because of the weather, their geographical location, or their personal plans.

I also managed to take some photographs through my Celestron 5" SCT (1250 mm FL) with a Tuthill Solar Skreen Filter. I have a few of these photos and an initial eclipse report at:

http://www.bit-net.com/~pauer/eclipse00/eclipse00.html

I hope to update my site with more photos and video frames in the coming weeks. What a great way to end the millennium! Regards, Eric Pauer

I have also received hundreds of emails of thanks from folks from all types of backgrounds coming in from all over the nation and the world for my webcast.



PHOTO'S OF PARTIAL ECLIPSE DEC 25TH 2000

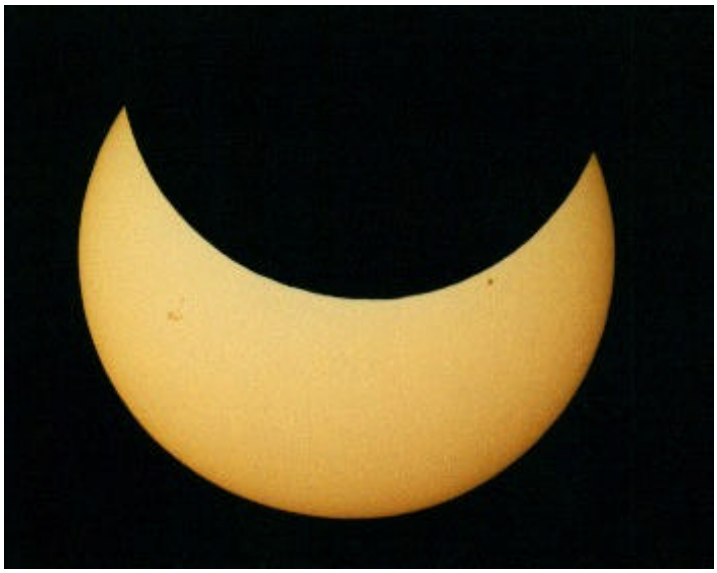
From: **Chris Malicki** <kmalicki@idirect.com>

Taken with C8 from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
#23 at 12:28, # 15 at 12:11, #32 at 13:54 (all EST)
Chris Malicki

December days are not often sunny near the great lakes of southern Ontario, Canada. Thus, I was thrilled when I got up at 8 a.m. on Christmas morning 2000 and found a perfect clear sky at my home in Mississauga (near Toronto). After going to an early Mass and giving solar filters as gifts to the two priests, I rushed home with my wife and two children, and set up my equipment – an old Tasco 2.4 inch refractor for projection images, and a celestron 8 with filter for photography and direct observation. The sky stayed beautifully clear all the time – an eclipse chaser's dream!

First contact was right on time at 10:58 EST (as per Fred's predictions). The huge sunspots added interest to the eclipse as the moon could be seen approaching and covering them in real time. The edge of the moon was distinctly jagged, and I regretted that Bailey's beads would not be formed. At maximum eclipse 12:34 (magnitude 0.59) , there was a very distinct "eclipse look" with anaemic sunlight – a look that my wife Liz and I are very accustomed to when eclipses reach 50% or so. Last contact was seen at 14:09 – to the minute predicted by Fred.

All in all a really nice partial eclipse. Enclosed – two pictures of me on my driveway during the eclipse, and 3 photos through the C8. **Chris Malicki**



PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

PITTSBURGH

From: Francis Graham <francisgraham@rocketmail.com> To: <solareclipses@aula.com>; <meteorite-list@meteoritecentral.com> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 7:11 AM Subject: [SE] **Dec 25 Eclipse from Pittsburgh**

Dear List, We observed the Christmas Eclipse by projection with a refractor in East Pittsburgh, a small town, well, east of Pittsburgh. It was a mini-social event, with friends and neighbors stopping by between Christmas morning and afternoon visits. We had an outdoor tent picnic, with hot soup, coffee. It was great.

Francis Graham

Christmas Eclipse from the Jersey shore

From: FRED ESPENAK <u32fe@lepvax.gsfc.nasa.gov> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM>; <eclipse@hydra.carleton.ca> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 5:46 PM Subject: [SE] **Christmas Eclipse from the Jersey shore**

SEML list managers and Eclipse Conference organizers Patrick Poitevin and Joanne Edmunds joined Pat Totten and I at the New Jersey shore for the December 25 eclipse. I'm happy to say that we enjoyed sparklingly clear skies all day long although the weather was a bit cold (22F or -5C) with wind chills

Joanne, just a bit chilly!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From: Francis Murphy <fxmurphy@voicenet.com> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Wednesday, December 27, 2000 4:31 PM Subject: Re: [SE] **Christmas Eclipse photos**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Here is a link to my web page http://www.voicenet.com/~fxmurphy/ I will warn you, I am not a web page designer LOL :-)
Partial solar eclipse report It was a beautiful day here in Pa, but very cold and windy. Of course our day started early with our two daughters, getting my wife and I up around 5:30 am looking under the Christmas tree. Once they had opened all of the gifts, and were happily playing with the newly acquired toys, I started to get the telescope and equipment setup in the front yard. Of course no one wanted to leave the comfort of the toasty warm house to see this event. But I did manage to have the assistance of my oldest daughter Megan for a couple of photos, and she did get to see some thing she had not seen before.
I dropped some eclipse glasses to my neighbors who were also were very happy inside their houses, but I told them they could walk out their front door and take a peak with the glasses every once in a while to see the progress. My one neighbor and his brother in-law did venture over to see the sun near maxim coverage in my 6 inch Skywatcher refractor with a solar filter. The sunspots were fantastic, and with the moon covering a part of the sun, my visitors were very impressed with the telescope view.

I had the chance to see my first total eclipse back in 1998 down on the island of Curacao. I traveled with a group of 11 friends who also had never seen an Eclipse. With this Christmas event, it brought back some very fond memories of a perfect eclipse day. Of course with this partial eclipse, the weather was a lot colder and it was not going to be a total. Oh well, it still amazing to see the moon cross in front of the sun. The best part for me this time around, was traveling no further then my front yard, and hot chocolate waiting for me inside the house. :-) Regards Francis

Partial solar eclipse report It was a beautiful day here in Pa, but very cold and windy.

PARTIAL ECLIPSE 25TH DECEMBER 2000

From: Madden <iluvelx@netacc.net> To: <SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.COM> Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 3:47 PM Subject: [SE] **Partial Christmas Present**

As was predicted earlier, we got lake effect clouds and some precip along with strong westerly winds. However about 10:30 a.m. EST there was a significant improvement and by show time there were frequent breaks in the cloud density. I was able to observe the first contact right on time and various phases of partiality over the next several hours including maximum. The observing was always brief however - no more than 30 or 40 seconds at a time before a heavy cloud scudded in.

No video, but I did expose a few frames using the clouds as a filter (yea...they were that thick at times). All in all, a good day considering madden/rochester

From: Madden <iluvelx@netacc.net>

I cannot comment on birds or dogs, however at maximum eclipse both my wife and I commented that the ambiant light had subsided. In particular - since it was a generally overcast day - it seemed 'greyer' and darker. This is, of course, completely subjective. madden/rochester

From: <Skywayinc@aol.com> To: <undisclosed-recipients:;> Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2000 6:52 PM Subject: Re: **Eclipse?Mime-Version: 1.0**

Hi everybody! -- Well . . . this solar eclipse was a first for me: During the first two hours, while the eclipse was in progress, I was driving our minivan! We were on the road to spend Christmas week at Renate's parents ranch house in Brodheadsville, PA. I am actually typing this on my brother-in-law's (John) computer.

What can you say about a partial eclipse viewed under nearly perfectly clear skies, mainly on Interstate 80 (en route to the Delaware Water Gap)? I had supplied Renate, Maria and Joseph with solar viewers and periodically . . . about every 10 minutes or so . . . we would check the Moon's progress across the Sun.

Around the time of maximum eclipse you could definitely tell that the Moon's disc was smaller than that of the Sun. Also . . . around the 12:47 p.m. time of maximum eclipse, I could note a very subtle change in the sky illumination . . . almost as if the Sun were shining behind a patch of cirroform cloudiness (even though it was shining brilliantly with no clouds nearby). The sky seemed to appear slightly bluer -- and the landscape lighting appeared to be ever-so-slightly subdued. Since I had been on the road since first contact, it would seem to me that such lighting changes would be more readily visibile . . . especially since I was looking for it!

As the obscuration value (not magnitude!) was 45% at the peak, we might say that the first vestige of any change in sky illumination visually from a solar eclipse might not appear until at least 40% of the Sun's total disk area is obscured.

We arrived at my in-laws about a half hour after maximum eclipse. I was able to watch the rest of the event periodically from their living room window. I also noted pinhole images of the Sun with a large quarter-bite taken out from the upper right (image reversed) limb shining through some evergreen trees onto the snowy ground beneath. Have a nice (quiet) holiday week! -- joe rao

From: Glenn Schneider <gschneider@mac.com> To: <solareclipses@aula.com> Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 6:16 PM Subject: [SE] **Now, the *REAL* count-down begins...**

Well, I guess that was the appetizer. Though only 9.9% coverage by area from my backyard sure left me hungry for more. I hope to see you all in Southern Africa in half a year to be fully satiated. Until then... Clear skies. Glenn Schneider

From: Judy Anderson To: SOLARECLIPSES@AULA.com Sent: Monday, December 25, 2000 6:08 PM Subject: [SE] **Beautiful Partial in Mobile, AL**

Merry Christmas All, We had a beautiful 38% partial eclipse at 11:16am CST (-6.0h) in Mobile, Alabama (30.68N, 088.00W). The temperature was about 55deg. F (13deg. C). My neighbors enjoyed it too! I used an Astroscan and binoculars with Baader filters. Keep looking up, Judy Anderson, Mob